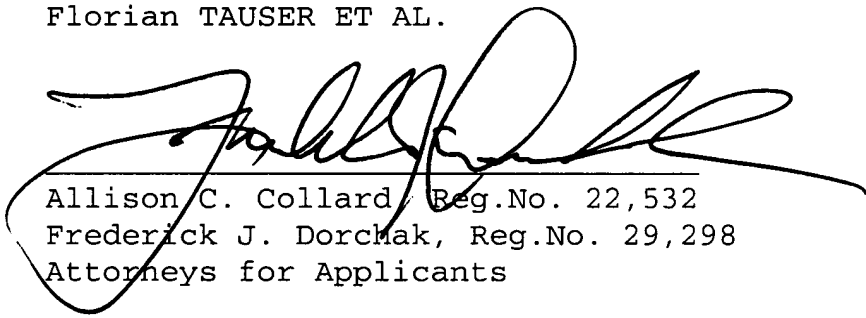


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-references to the related applications have been inserted on page 1. The claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Maria Guastella